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Amended  
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extend generally in said longitudinal direction, one end of each of the two separate belt-  
portions is fastened to the absorbent part, and opposite ends of each of the two separate  
belt-portions extend in respective directions from said absorbent part and are intended to be  
fastened together around a wearer of the garment, which belt has a stiffness that varies in  
the cross-direction of the belt, wherein the stiffness that varies has an extension in the  
longitudinal direction that essentially coincides with the length of the belt.

2. (Twice Amended) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the belt  
comprises in its cross-direction at least two mutually adjacent regions of mutually different  
stiffness.

3. (Twice Amended) A garment according to claim 2, wherein the belt has a  
longitudinally extending central part that is stiffer than at least one longitudinally extending  
edge-part of said belt.

sub 4. (Amended) A garment comprising an absorbent part and a waist belt which  
has a longitudinal direction and a cross-direction and which is attached directly or  
indirectly to said garment, wherein said belt includes two belt-portions which extend  
generally in said longitudinal direction in respective directions from said absorbent part and  
which are intended to be fastened together around a wearer of the garment, which belt has  
a stiffness that varies in the cross-direction of the belt, wherein the stiffness that varies has  
an extension in the longitudinal direction that essentially coincides with the length of the

belt, wherein a part of the belt being located centrally between the two belt-portions has one and the same degree of stiffness throughout the whole of its area.

A2 5. (Amended) A garment comprising an absorbent part and a waist belt which has a longitudinal direction and a cross-direction and which is attached directly or indirectly to said garment, wherein said belt includes two belt-portions which extend generally in said longitudinal direction in respective directions from said absorbent part and which are intended to be fastened together around a wearer of the garment, which belt has a stiffness that varies in the cross-direction of the belt, wherein the stiffness that varies has an extension in the longitudinal direction that essentially coincides with the length of the belt, wherein the two belt-portions of said belt are comprised of a generally homogenous material; and a cross-section through one or both of said belt-portions taken in the cross-direction presents at least one longitudinally extending edge-part that is thinner than a central part of said cross-section.

A3 6. (Twice Amended) A garment comprising an absorbent part and a waist belt which has a longitudinal direction and a cross-direction and which is attached directly or indirectly to said garment, wherein said belt includes two belt-portions which extend generally in said longitudinal direction in respective directions from said absorbent part and which are intended to be fastened together around a wearer of the garment, which belt has a stiffness that varies in the cross-direction of the belt, wherein the stiffness that varies has an extension in the longitudinal direction that essentially coincides with the length of the

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belt, wherein at least one longitudinally extending edge-part of the belt has been treated so as to change the stiffness of the material locally.

7. (Twice Amended) A garment according to claim 6, wherein the at least one edge-part of said belt has been heat-treated.

8. (Twice Amended) A garment according to claim 6, wherein the at least one edge-part of said belt has been treated with electromagnetic radiation.

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9. (Twice Amended) A garment according to claim 6, wherein the at least one edge-part of said belt has been worked mechanically.